MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

14 MAY 1987

Sudan

Cabinet Dissolved — In a statement broadcast by Omdurman radio, Prime Minister Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi announced that the Council of Ministers has been dissolved but that the ministers will remain in place until the "required reorganization" can be accomplished. The decision to "reform and renovate" followed an evaluation of the Council's achievements and shortcomings, the prime minister explained, listing as "negative aspects" of the Council's performance the "delay" in correcting legislation under the previous government, the failure to deal adequately with pressing economic problems, and the inefficiency of some ministers as well as "contradictions" among them. Al-mahdi stressed that his recommendation was based on the need to achieve "a higher level of harmony" and was not due to political differences between the government parties.

Transport Plane Downed — SPLA antiaircraft fire downed a C-130 on its landing approach to Wau 12 May, the clandestine SPLA radio reported, noting that the plane carried two platoons of government reinforcements. An SPLM-SPLA military spokesman cited by the station reiterated the warning against violating rebel-controlled airspace in the south.

Joint Military Maneuvers — In an effort to promote and modernize its armed forces, Sudan will take part in the U.S.-sponsored "Bright Star" maneuvers, according to an *Al-Usbu'* report cited by SUNA.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Talks between Jordan's King Husayn and Iraqi President Saddam Husayn focused on bilateral relations and the general Arab situation, Amman radio reported. The meeting followed King Husayn's arrival in Baghdad 13 May accompanied by the prime minister and other Jordanian officials.

In a cable to the Iraqi leader, broadcast by Amman radio after his return to Jordan, King Husayn noted that their talks were within the framework of efforts to "unify Arab ranks toward joint national action to tackle all the challenges facing our nation." An informed source in Amman cited by Radio Monte Carlo linked the king's visit to Baghdad with his efforts to narrow Syrian-Iraqi differences, adding that King Husayn will shortly leave for Damascus.

Syria

An Arab diplomatic source in Paris cited by MENA stated that the Syrian authorities have foiled a coup planned by a group of Air Force pilots based north of Damascus. The authorities reportedly took preemptive action against the plotters 10 May, executing 40 pilots and arresting 79 others. Monitored Syrian media have not been observed to mention any such development.

Israel

The director general of Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's office disclosed that he has given the U.S. Administration a message from Shamir to the effect that steps relating to an international conference are over and nobody in the government is entitled to promote the idea on behalf of the State of Israel, Jerusalem radio reported. Shamir and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres both reaffirmed their positions in interviews with Jerusalem television, with Shamir saying he is proud to have stopped Peres' international conference proposal, which has inflicted "damage" on Israel. Peres rebutted Shamir's claim about damage, stressed that he is not afraid of being dismissed by Shamir for continuing to promote peace, and expressed confidence that a Knesset majority will be found for early elections.

Egypt

Interests Offices Closed — The Iranian interests office in the Swiss Embassy has been ordered closed because its two Iranian diplomats engaged in activities "outside their line of duty," according to an *Al-Akhbar* report cited by MENA. *Al-Ahram* noted that Egypt will close its interests office under the auspices of the French Embassy in Tehran, the agency added.

Rioters Sentenced — According to an *Al-Ahram* report cited by the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon, 27 police conscripts were sentenced to 3 years imprisonment for their actions during the February 1986 riots.

Iran-Iraq War

Iraqi warplanes carried out separate attacks on two large maritime targets near the Iranian coast 13 May, according to a military statement carried by Baghdad radio. A military source told INA that Iranian reports of a battle in the Fakkeh area east of Maysan were "fabricated" to divert attention from losses inflicted by Iraqi air strikes.

According to IRNA, Kurdish "insurrectionists" took over three Iraqi military bases in the Sayyid Sadiq-Halabjah area of Al-Sulaymaniyah Province. The agency also reported that some 1,000 Iraqi troops have joined the revolt since it began 12 May.

Iran

Return of Assets — Reporting on the return to Iran of 451 million dollars of assets previously frozen by the United States, IRNA cited an informed source at Iran's International Legal Services bureau who stressed that the "vigilance" of committed Iranian legal experts had thwarted all U.S. "plots" to "distort" the case and exploit it for political reasons.

Torture Denial — The Iranian Embassy in London denied Amnesty International's "baseless allegations" that torture is

practiced in Iran, IRNA reported. Stressing that "torture is forbidden in Islam," the Embassy said that methods of punishment in Iran are based entirely on the Koran and the precepts of Islam.

Arrested Italians — The Italian Foreign Ministry confirmed that the Iranian authorities have arrested two Italian engineers working in Iran, Rome radio disclosed.

Gulf Affairs

Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy's denial that he met with Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister 'Ali Besharati in the UAE proves that the credibility of U.S. officials has reached its lowest ebb, Kuwait's *Al-Ra'y al-'Amm* stated in a 14 May editorial cited by KUNA. The paper predicted that Gulf Arabs will increasingly turn for help to the Soviet Union to break their dependence on the United States.

FBIS **DAILY REPORT**

CONTENTS

South Asia

Vol VIII No 093 *14 May 1987*

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW i

INDIA

Presidential Rule in Punjab Consolidated ..... E 1
State Borders Sealed *[AFP]* ..... E 1
Barnala Hits Minister's Arrest ..... E 1
BBC Interviews Police Chief ..... E 1
Police Chief on 'Turmoil' ..... E 2
Police To Be Reorganized ..... E 4
Arrests Total 339 in 2 Days ..... E 4
Governor Meets Gandhi ..... E 4
Extremists Kidnap Tripura Assembly Member ..... E 4
Sources Deny Middlemen Received Swedish Payments ..... E 4
Report Says Nuclear Reactors Have Safety Features ..... E 5

OTHER COUNTRIES

NEPAL

PRC Troops Intercept Mountaineers at Border *[KYODO]* ..... G 1

SRI LANKA

Jaffna Hospital, Fort Peace Zone Issue Unresolved ..... G 1
Landmines Kill Soldiers; LTTE Shells Harbor *[AFP]* ..... G 1
Jayewardene: Extension of Term 'May Be Necessary' ..... G 1
Names Jaffna Clash Investigator ..... G 2
Intelligence Chief Says JVP To Abduct Ministers ..... G 2
Ministry Announces Resettlement of Refugees ..... G 2

IRAN

'Informed Source' on U.S. Returning Assets ..... I 1
Two Italians Arrested on Unspecified Charges *[Rome]* ..... I 1
Officials Says Torture Reports 'Baseless' ..... I 1
Majlis Speaker Views Policies With Foreign Envoys ..... I 1
Meets Cuban Envoy; Hits Soviets ..... I 1
Meets Dane; Views Canada Ties ..... I 2
Discusses Waite With Swede ..... I 2
Iraqi Government Battles Unrest in Kurdish Areas ..... I 2
Demonstration Strafed ..... I 2
Uprisings Occur in 3 Towns ..... I 2
Government Forces Join Revolt ..... I 3
Joint Staff Communique No 2835 on Recent Fighting ..... I 3
Convoy Departs to Battlefronts ..... I 3
SAIRI Chairman Decries 'Plots' To Protect Saddam ..... I 3

Presidential Rule in Punjab Consolidated

State Borders Sealed

BK131210 Hong Kong AFP in English 1158 GMT 13 May 87

[Text] New Delhi, May 13 (AFP) — The borders of India's troubled northwestern State of Punjab have been sealed to prevent Sikh militants escaping a security crackdown ordered after the imposition of federal government control, reports said here Wednesday.

Last Monday New Delhi sacked Punjab's Sikh Akali Dal administration and imposed direct control, pledging to bring order to the state. Now security forces have blocked the main entries from Punjab to the mountain state of Himachal Pradesh, Himachal Police Chief I.B. Negi told *Agence France-Presse* from Simla by telephone.

Punjab's borders with Jammu and Kashmir and with Pakistan have been sealed off, the *Press Trust of India* (PTI) said. Security forces have also been mobilized along Punjab's border with the desert State of Rajasthan, from which Sikh militants are often suspected of escaping into Pakistan, official sources said.

Police in Punjab's capital, Chandigarh, said nearly 150 suspected Sikh militants had been arrested in the continuing crackdown. PTI said the figure was 200. New Delhi has already deployed 6,000 additional paramilitary personnel in Punjab to prevent violence, but official sources at the paramilitary Central Reserve Police Force said more were to be sent. About 70,000 paramilitary personnel and state police are already in Punjab.

Barnala Hits Minister's Arrest

BK131258 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 13 May 87

[Text] The former chief minister of Punjab and president of the Shiromani Akali Dal-Longowal, Mr Surjit Singh Barnala, has condemned the arrest of Mr Prem Singh Chandumajra. Speaking to newsmen in Chandigarh today, he said arrest has been made to cause damage to the image of his party and ministers in his cabinet.

BBC Interviews Police Chief

BK131416 London BBC World Service in English 1309 GMT 13 May 87

[Interview with Punjab Police Chief Julius Ribeiro by BBC Delhi correspondent Mark Tully, from the "24 Hours" program; date and place not given]

[Text] As you may have heard in the news, there is a big security operation in the northern Indian State of Punjab, designed to crack down on Sikh militants. Punjab was put under direct — or president's — rule from Delhi 2 days ago, and one of the people arrested so far is a former minister in the state government dismissed by Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi. The man charged with restoring law and order in the troubled state is the director general of the Punjab police [words indistinct] started by asking him what difficulties he had had in controlling law and order as a result of the presence of a democratically elected government. [begin recording]

[Ribeiro] The politicians have their own compulsions, and there has always been an attempt by the government in power to win over what they used to call the misdirected youth. Many times when we got hold of them there was a lot of pressure at the local level, the lower level, to release them. At times it so happened that the party in power itself said that they were their boys who had been caught, so they should be released. So we said how did they get into it. And they said, well, some of these boys are very enthusiastic. Misdirected enthusiasm. But generally, it so happened that there was no respect as such for authority, and that had to be corrected.

[Tully] Did some ministers actually use their influence to try and get terrorists released?

[Ribeiro] Oh yes, this was quite common. In a law-and-order meeting the finance minister had himself named two individuals who he said had to be arrested. When we arrested there was a demonstration at the police station and stones were thrown. There also we arrested some boys on the spot. Then we were told that those boys too belonged to the party in power. So I said even if I understand that it is difficult sometimes to help us, certainly you should not try and make our work more difficult than it already is.

[Tully] You have already arrested one of the ministers of this government. Are you looking for, or do you expect, to arrest other ministers or senior members of the former ruling party?

[Ribeiro] It is not because he is a minister that we are arresting him; there could be others who are not ministers who are also functionaries in the party. But, we are more interested in people who had links with the terrorists, who would be able to give us much more information about their linkages and their networks.

[Tully] So there could be more arrests of former ministers or senior functionaries?

[Ribeiro] Could be, but I would not be able to give an answer to this question straight away, because it all depends upon the type of evidence we have.

[Tully] One of the aims, obviously, of having a democratically elected government is that there is some buffer between the police and the public. Are you not afraid that, now that buffer has been removed, your police will start harassing the public and that antagonism toward the government will grow rather than decrease?

[Ribeiro] Now, this is a very pertinent question, and we have been exercised about this aspect, and the first thing we did — at least, which I did — when I addressed my officers and wrote to them and spoke to them on the phone, was to emphasize that all senior officers must ensure that there is no harassment of innocent people. In fact, it is much more important than catching terrorists, because if innocent people are harassed then the people will

turn against us. That means that we will lose the war; we might win a few battles, but that will not solve the problem.

[Tully] Now, in the past when there has been president's rule the situation has not necessarily — in fact the last time it did not — improve. Are you not afraid that the extremists might be able to do some atrocity, like a repeat of the incidents where Hindus were pulled off buses, and thereby discredit this whole operation?

[Ribeiro] Well, they could do that. They could do it earlier, they could do it even now. There is really nothing to stop them from killing innocent people because they choose their time and place and there is almost no possibility that the police will be present on the spot. But then, the determination to get them and to ensure that they are rounded up will be much greater now because the police force at the operational level knows that there is only one boss, one chief, and there will be no interference in the performance of their duties.

[Tully] Mr Ribeiro, you once told me that the Golden Temple was still a very crucial place and that there are still extremists inside or near the Golden Temple complex who are masterminding many of the terrorists activities. What do you intend to do about the Golden Temple?

[Ribeiro] This is a very delicate issue, because the Sikhs are very emotional about the Golden Temple and, suppose somebody used my church for such activities, I would certainly welcome anybody, the police, coming in and removing such elements. But here I feel that the Sikhs themselves should ensure that nothing of this sort happens. But if there is an occasion which demands that we have to enter, for example if they commit offences inside the temple, if they kill people, murder, I mean this is our moral responsibility to go in and investigate. We have been doing it and it has not been objected to, and I presume that we will continue to do it. But just to enter the temple for the sake of searching, that we may not do.

[Tully] And what about for the sake of getting people out of the temple, arresting people inside the temple who are actually directly involved in terrorism?

[Ribeiro] No, unless we have definite information and are absolutely sure of getting them I think it will not be advisable to enter. [end recording]

Police Chief on 'Turmoil'

BK131804 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1545 GMT 13 May 87

[Interview with Mr J. F. Ribeiro, director general of Punjab police, by Sukhchinder Churamani of All India Radio, from the "Spotlight" program — recorded in Jullundur 13 May]

[Text] [Chudamani] Punjab has been in turmoil for a couple of years. Things came to such a pass that the government had to impose presidential rule in the state. Mr Ribeiro, all the newspapers carry the news: Riberio given a free hand. Does it mean extra powers for you?

[Ribeiro] I would not like anybody to think that free hand means that the police can do whatever they like. In fact, I am quite clear in my mind, and I have told all my officers and men, that the responsibility on the police has increased now, and responsibility not only to control terrorism but also to control the other ills that often afflict the police, for example corruption, for example high handedness. All these kinds of ills have to be controlled, and the senior officers have a much greater responsibility now because people will expect a much cleaner government, a much more just government. And I think, my first priority is to see that no innocent people are troubled. There is a lot of feeling of hurt in the Sikh community in particular, and we should be very very emphatic on this point that none of our actions should increase this hurt. For example, if people are checked at nakas [check points], it should be seen that it is done very politely, it is done very dispassionately, and everybody is checked and that nobody should feel that he is being particularly singled out. And if there are people who feel hurt or belittled by our checking, we should apologise to them once we find that they are not the ones we are looking for.

[Chudamani] In the earlier days you claimed of certain limitations to your way of working. But now what do you plan to do in the coming days, and what would be your strategy?

[Ribeiro] I don't think there is going to be any change in strategy. What we want is the terrorists. We want information about them. We have to put a lot of pressure on them. The only difference that there is certainly going to be is that my officers and men in the field will now know that there is only one chief, one boss, and that the objectives of this chief have to be fulfilled in a more democratic system in the history. In a system of parliamentary democracy or legislative assembly democracy, you have a lot of linkages between certain officials and politicians. Those linkages will now no longer exist. So if an officer thinks that he can get off by doing over a cause or by being soft with certain persons with whom he should not be soft, that situation will not obtain.

[Chudamani] Don't you think, Mr Ribeiro, that the task has become harder for you. In this now present situation, your responsibilities are more ?

[Ribeiro] I agree with you totally. In fact, I would not take it ill if you say that now the responsibility squarely is on my shoulder and we have to accept it. After all, without responsibility, there is also no satisfaction in what you do. So I have accepted that responsibility. My officers and men have all said that they have accepted it, and I am quite sure that we will do our best, and I am also confident that we will succeed.

[Chudamani] I appreciate your confidence and your good intentions, Mr Ribeiro. You have not been able to overhaul the police force earlier. How are you going to do it now?

[Ribeiro] The overhauling will only be limited to this extent that those who are very highly politicized, who have sought postings in places where they get benefit to themselves, those people will have to be shifted out, so that there will be total justice and impartiality in dealings with the public.

[Chudamani] Naturally, you don't want that any innocent people should be harmed. But how will you ensure that such a thing is not done?

[Ribeiro] It is not easy to translate your promises into practice, I agree, because after all you have to rely on thousands of people at the lower level. But we have to constantly hammer this point into them. Now when I took, on the very first day of president's rule, that is yesterday, this is the first thing I told them on telephone as well as in a meeting as well as in a circular letter that my first priority is to see that no innocent people are troubled, because if people are troubled they are going to go against us and that is not what we want. We want people to be on our side to help us, because without the help of the people no police force can really be effective.

Now, you want to know how I am going to do it. I have already said first by constantly drilling it into them, by constantly repeating it. Secondly, we are going to have a cell, a special cell with an inspector general of police [IG] in charge. I think I am going to make my IG-crimes in charge of this cell, and he will have some senior officers with him, and any complaint will be looked into, and if there is evidence to show that some of our officers have misbehaved, we will certainly get rid of them immediately. Another thing that I intend to do is to set up machinery for grievances. This will be of course also in the hands of the deputy commissioners. The chief secretary will issue those instructions to them, but we will actively participate, my senior superintendents of police and others, in these grievances committee. Whenever I go to the districts, I will meet the members of legislative assemblies, I will request them to come, and also I will request other people of the public of see me so that I can find out what is happening. If they have any complaints and if they feel that some injustice has been done, we will certainly do our best to remove them.

[Chudamani] You have stated somewhere that your stay in Punjab has neither been a success or a complete failure. How would you explain that?

[Ribeiro] I have said it in this context, that you cannot call it a success because — unless people feel that they are not afraid any more — I think we can call this particular mission a success when people feel free to go about. When they think that, look, we will return to our homes in the evening; our children will return safely from school. That fear of life, when that is erased from people's minds, then we can say that we have succeeded. This will take a little time. And we will try our best. If we keep these terrorists under control — terrorism under control — this situation will arise. But as regards failure, I also know that the terrorists are bothered about us; they are bothered about the police. They are worried that the police will catch them or we will meet them in battle. So that fear is also there in their minds. I will say that we have not failed as long as there is fear in their minds also.

[Chudamani] Now, coming to a petty problem, Mr Ribeiro, about fake encounters. How would you explain that?

[Ribeiro] Now, I really don't understand what they mean by fake encounters because my officers have received bullet injuries from the terrorists in that encounter, and if my men have died I don't know what they would probably say, that that is okay. But if they get killed, and they say it is fake. No this is not very fair. If they have guns and they are going to use it, then I think that we will also use our guns on them. Because today I find that the people with guns, they just don't bother about any law, don't bother about people. They are creating terror in everybody's mind. And unless the police reply in kind, there is no other way of dealing with them. Now if you have a tiger and you say that it is unfair to shoot him, then I think that you are at a disadvantage. So if this person is going to shoot at me, I am not going to die. I am going to shoot him.

[Chudamani] You have ordered crackdown on certain organizations. Do you think that wouldn't create an unpleasant situation?

[Ribeiro] No, organizations, there could be lot of people in an organization. I am worried about only those who are instigating others to do illegal things. Now even asking people to not to drink, not to sell liquor, not to smoke. Well, some people may agree with it. I am not talking about the social objective, but the method in which we are going to do it. We are going to force to shut down. We are forcing people to give up certain bad habits, we may call them bad, some people may not call them bad. But at the point of a gun and we are threatening them. And if an elected government proceeds to make such laws, I am quite sure that people will revolt. But here is a parallel type of government that is not elected, but yet decides that they are going to impose their codes of moral behaviour on others. Incidentally, the other day we caught of these boys walking about with these posters threatening persons. They also had receipt books where they have collected money from various persons and one of them was drunk. If you call...[changes thought] This is something I cannot understand.

[Chudamani] Often it happens that the vehicles are stolen from people and misused, I would say. And then people are so afraid, there is so much a sense of insecurity in people, they don't report the matter to the police for the simple fear of harrassment by the police. How are you going to stop these things?

[Ribeiro] Now, this is a complaint that has been received not only in Punjab, but wherever I have worked before. In Bombay, for instance, there were always complaints of this type. Because there is a tendency on the part of policemen to try and avoid work and here there is a lot of pressure on them for work, and there are a lot of people who would like to get some free time. If there is a complaint of a theft, they try to harass the complainant so that he goes away in disgust. Now, this is something that only supervision can help. We have to catch such persons and punish them. We have to also tell them that this is what puts people against us, against the police. And police is here to help the people. If they do not help the people, then they will never be accepted by them.

[Chudamani] What exactly you have felt about the people of Punjab?

[Ribeiro] You know, people everywhere are human beings. And I think that everybody has to be treated as a decent human being. And people of Punjab are as decent as people from anywhere else. Only thing is you have to have empathy with them. You have to understand them, and you have to sympathize with them and

show that you are just, you are fair, and that you want to help them. And the public wherever I have worked, I have seen that they always respond to a fair treatment and just treatment. And if they find that an officer is on their side, they always give in due measure.

Now, you will be interested to know that I toured Amritsar district only last week. I visited Ajnala, I visited Chabal, I visited Amritsar, I visited Tarn Taran, and I met young students in colleges. I met the poeple on the roads, and there were 200-300 people opposite (Jawal) police station and at least 100 boys in textile technology institute, and they were very very good to me. Although all these people still talk about fake encounters, I didn't see any kind of hostility. On the contrary, the boys were positively friendly. So I think that people anywhere are very good. Only thing is that an officer should also respond in like measure. In fact, he should go out of his way, because he must show people that he is on their side.

[Chudamani] What would you expect from the public in general?

[Ribeiro] You know, it is very difficult in a situation that now obtains in Punjab, where the terrorist kills and has caused a lot of terror and fear in the minds of people, to expect the people to come forward and give information and to help you. But I am quite sure that a stage will come when they find that the police have been very successful, then they will themselves help us, because, they get fed up of these persons.

[Chudamani] Thank you Mr Ribeiro, and we wish you good luck in your new task and we hope and pray that Punjab is certainly heading toward a better time.

Police To Be Reorganized

BK131624 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 13 May 87

[Excerpts] In Punjab, over 200 persons have been arrested since last night in the latest state-wide crackdown on terrorists and extremists. This includes the minister for cooperation in the Barnala government, Mr Prem Singh Chandumajra. He was arrested from his Chandigarh residence this morning. The director general of police, Mr Ribeiro, told our Chandigarh correspondent that the arrests follow the crackdown ordered by the state government on all those who were threatening the people and extorting money on the pretext of social reforms. [passage omitted]

Speaking to newsmen in the afternoon, Mr Ribeiro said the police force in the state will be reorganized within a week. He however, turned down the demand for screening of the force and said the allegation of police sympathy with terrorists is baseless. Mr Ribeiro said the police in the district has been given a list of about 400 persons who are to be detained.

Arrests Total 339 in 2 Days

BK140311 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 14 May 87

[Text] In Punjab, 122 more terrorists and their sympathizers have been arrested last night. This raises the total number of such arrests in the last 2 days to 339.

The state police chief, Mr J.F. Ribeiro, told the All India Radio Chandigarh correspondent this morning that police and paramilitary forces all over the state are maintaining a strict vigil on the situation.

He said that the sector scheme of day and night patrolling by security forces has been introduced in more areas affected by terrorist activities. This scheme has been further intensified in areas where it is already in operation.

Governor Meets Gandhi

BK131612 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 13 May 87

[Text] The Punjab governor, Mr Siddarth Shanker Ray, called on the president, Giani Zail Singh, and the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, in New Delhi today. He is reported to have apprised them of the political situation in Punjab following proclamation of president's rule and the steps taken to improve law and order in the state. Mr Ray also had a meeting with the home minister, Mr Buta Singh.

Extremists Kidnap Tripura Assembly Member

BK140022 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 13 May 87

[Text] In Tripura, the CPI-M MLA [Member of Legislative Assembly], Mr (Len Prasad Malsai), was kidnapped today from his village at Satnala in the north district. Reports say the kidnappers, suspected to be TNV [Tripura National Volunteers] extremists, raided the village this afternoon and dragged away Mr (Malsai) and his bodyguard.

Sources Deny Middlemen Received Swedish Payments

BK140321 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 14 May 87

[Text] Official sources in New Delhi have categorically denied the latest allegation made by the Swedish radio that the Government of India contract with Bofors contained a provision for payment of 3 percent commission to agents and middlemen amounting to 250 million Swedish kroners. The Swedish radio yesterday alleged that it found that Bofors paid money to Indian middlemen.

The official sources termed the allegation as false, baseless, and mischievous and in line with its earlier vague and contradictory broadcast. The ambassador of India in Stockholm asked the Swedish radio to share evidence or documents in support of its latest allegation. On behalf of the Swedish radio, Mr Magnus Okerlund refused to give any further clarification or evidence. He said that they would like to keep this matter deliberately vague. The Swedish radio representative also refused to clarify the inconsistency between their latest allegations about contrac-

tual payment to agents and their earlier allegations of payments of bribes.

Report Says Nuclear Reactors Have Safety Features
BK140024 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 13 May 87

[Text] A report of the Nuclear Power Board says Indian nuclear reactors have inherent safety features. It says the pressurized heavy water reactors, which will be the main sources of nuclear power in the country for the next 30 years, have several built-in safety measures. The reactors can operate with high reliability ensuring safety of plant personnel and surrounding population with minimal impact on environment.

NEPAL

PRC Troops Intercept Mountaineers at Border

OW141021 Tokyo KYODO in English 1013 GMT 14 May 87

[Text] Kathmandu, May 14 KYODO — Chinese troops intercepted two expeditions trying to climb Mt. Cho Oyu in East Nepal on April 25, the expeditions said here Thursday.

Both expeditions — one American and the other from Chile — wereclimbing the 8,201-meter high peak situated on the Nepal-China border from the southwest ridge with pemission of Nepal Ministry of Tourism.

Both went to mountain via the Nagpa La pass (5,800 meters) which lies on the Tibetan side. The pass has been the traditional route for expeditions climbing from Nepal.

While the chinese had raised no objection to crossing over to the pass for mountaineering purposes in the past, this time they said no.

"One reason could be that the Chinese are more vigilant now because of the worsening border problem with India," said Robert James Watters, leader of the nine-member American Nevada expedition.

He said the Chinese who brandished telescopes and tripods intercepted him at 5,700 meters around 11:00 a.m. on April 25. They asked him to show his passport and trekking climbing permits.

Watters obliged and the Chinese, after taking the passsport and permits, asked him to follow them to a nearby army camp in Tibet.

The leader refused to follow and returned to the base camp at 5,070 meters on Nepal side.

SRI LANKA

Jaffna Hospital, Fort Peace Zone Issue Unresolved

BK131131 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 13 May 87

[Text] The Sri Lanka Government has agreed to consider the appointment of a committee to study the establishment of peace zone surrounding the Jaffna hospital and the Jaffna Fort. The government has stressed that the only condition for the appointment of the committee will be that the members should be Sri Lankan citizens. According to the Media Center, representatives of the Jaffna Teaching Hospital have conveyed to the government the results of the discussion held by them in Jaffna. The minister of national security, Lalith Athulathmudali, held a discussion on the 3d of this month with representatives of the General Medical Officers Association and the Jaffna Hospital in this regard, and a further discussion was held on Monday.

Landmines Kill Soldiers; LTTE Shells Harbor

BK140901 Hong Kong AFP in English 0851 GMT 14 May 87

[Excerpts] Colombo, May 14 (AFP) — Ten soldiers were killed and five wounded Thursday by landmines believed planted by Tamil separatists, informed sources said, as most of the country prayed for peace during a two-day Buddhist holiday.

Seven soldiers were killed and three wounded by a landmine while on a routine patrol between Nilaveli and Irakkandy, in the north-eastern Trincomalee District, the sources said.

Three other soldiers were killed and two wounded in a separate incident Thursday morning when they were blown up by a landmine near Morawewa, also in Trincomalee District, military sources said. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile in northern Jaffna, the centre of Tamil separatism, the main separatist group Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) continued to shell Kankasanthurai harbour, military sources said.

General Cyril Ranatunge, chief of the anti-guerrilla Joint Operations Command (JOC), said civilian workers frightened of separatist shellings were staying away from work. Soldiers were instead unloading the cargo, he said.

"Even the food for the people of Jaffna is being unloaded by the soldiers," Gen Ranatunge said.

Gen Ranatunge said reports from southern India of massive troop movements in northern Sri Lanka were exaggerated, adding that there had recently been a change of troops in some army camps but that this was not a build-up.

Jayewardene: Extension of Term 'May Be Necessary'

BK131116 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 13 May 87

[Text] President J.R. Jayewardene has appealed to the Buddhist clergy and all sections of the community to cooperate with the government to overcome the present crisis. The government is making all attempts to bring about a political settlement. For the last 2 or 3 years discussions have been held with the Indian Government and the Tamil United Liberation Front. Proposals have been put forward for the establishment of pradeshiya sabhas [provincial councils], but certain terrorist groups are not cooperating in any way to bring about a settlement.

The president stated that discussions are now under way to arrive at a decision as to whether these proposals should be legally implemented or not. Addressing a public rally at Deniyaya yesterday, Mr Jayewardene said that it was the duty of the state of bring Jaffna under the control of the central government. He noted that he could not remain silent on this issue while leading a people's government. The government is making all efforts to solve the problem, but the leader of the SLFP was attempting to counteract these efforts.

When the term of the president and the government expires, elections will be held. But if at the time there is trouble in the world or in our country, it may be necessary to think of extending the term by a referendum. The president said that in times of war some countries were compelled to resort to such measures.

Names Jaffna Clash Investigator

BK130529 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 0358 GMT 13 May 87

["OANA/POOL" item]

[Text] Colombo, May 12 (LANKA PUWATH) — Sri Lankan President J.R. Jayewardene has appointed Anthony Christopher Alles, Llb. (London), former judge of the Supreme Court, as a one-man commissioner under Section 2 of the Commissions of Inquiry Act (Chap. 393) to inquire into and report on the incidents that took place at the government hospital, Jaffna on 30th March, 1987, states a press release issued by the Defence Ministry in Colombo today.

The terms of reference of the commission are as follows:

— The circumstances in which the government hospital Jaffna, was damaged on the morning of March 30, 1987 resulting in death and injury to several persons,

— The nature and extent of the damage caused to the building and equipment of the government hospital Jaffna on the aforesaid date, and to make recommendations as may be deemed necessary as a result of the inquiry including such recommendations as to the appropriate remedial measures to be adopted.

The commissioner invites all persons and institutions able to furnish any relevant evidence pertaining to the terms of reference aforesaid to submit written representations supported by documentary evidence if any, in the form of affidavits, to the undersigned by registered post on or before June 15, 1987.

Persons or institutions making such representations should furnish their full names, designations and addresses. They should also state whether they are willing to give oral evidence, if necessary, at any sittings of the commission. All statements will be treated with the strictest confidence.

Intelligence Chief Says JVP To Abduct Ministers

BK130525 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 0404 GMT 13 May 87

["OANA/Pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, May 12 (LANKA PUWATH) — The proscribed Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna [JVP] has targeted to abduct the minister of national security, minister of state, and minister of education in one of their moves to counter government action against them, according to *'The Island'* newspaper lead story today.

It continues that in a letter to the secretary of the ministry of defence, Gen. D.S. Attygalle, the director of the National Intelligence Bureau Z.C.E. Wijesuriya, has said "reliable information has been received that the JVP is collecting information on the security arrangements at the residences of government ministers".

Intelligence reports have also indicated that the JVP was of the view that one of the methods they could counter government action against them is by resorting to the abduction of government ministers, and if need be, even the minister's family members.

"We have information that the minister of national security, minister of state, and minister of education have been targeted for abduction. This information will have to be taken seriously, and enhanced security provided to the ministers", the letter warns.

President Jayewardene on Sunday said that members of the proscribed JVP were attempting to stage a coup and grab power before the end of this year. "What the JVP is planning is not a democratic campaign, but a dangerous and bloody attempt to overthrow the government".

Addressing the executive committee meeting of the UNP Youth League at the party headquarters in Pitakotte, President Jayewardene also disclosed that the government would very soon convene an all party conference to discuss the terrorist problem and subversive and anti-government activities taking place in the country.

Ministry Announces Resettlement of Refugees

BK120839 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 0635 GMT 12 May 87

["OANA/POOL" item]

[Text] Colombo, May 12 (LANKA PUWATH) — Re-settlement of refugees outside refugee camps in Sri Lanka's northern and eastern provinces will be implemented shortly, a Rehabilitation Ministry spokesman told LANKA PUWATH. These refugees who were displaced as a result of terrorist attacks have found shelter with relatives or friends.

The ministry provides them with dry rations and their essential items. Meanwhile, refugees in camps are also being re-settled in areas where the situation has returned to normal.

'Informed Source' on U.S. Returning Assets

LD140824 Tehran IRNA in English 0745 GMT 14 May 87

[Text] Tehran, May 14, IRNA — The U.S. has finally yielded to a verdict by the international tribunal at the Hague and released parts of the Iranian assets frozen after the victory of the 1979 Islamic Revolution.

An informed source at Iran's International Legal Services Bureau told IRNA here today that the U.S. deposited 451 million dollars of the Iranian assets to the account of the Central Bank of Iran at London branch of Bank of England.

He added that during deliberations at the Hague and even in the course of negotiations between banking officials of the two countries, the U.S. always tried to distort the case and abuse it as a political subject.

But, he stressed, vigilance of the committed Iranian legal experts thwarted all these plots. Finally the tribunal ordered the U.S. to release the amount which had been kept by the Federal Reserve Bank for almost five years.

The source said that the U.S. representative to the Hague tribunal announced Wednesday that the U.S. would take immediate measures for the transfer of the amount, stressing that it had nothing to do with the hostages in Lebanon or any other political issues.

Prior to the issuance of the verdict, the U.S. tried to distort the issue by giving it a political dimension, he said.

The U.S. has made additional violations in other financial affairs with Iran. In one instance it has rejected to deliver the equipment Iran purchased for government organizations. Although Iran has paid the price and transportation charges, the U.S. has refused to release them.

Two Italians Arrested on Unspecified Charges

LD131634 Rome Domestic Service in Italian 1555 GMT 13 May 87

[Text] The Foreign Ministry has confirmed the news carried by some papers to the effect that two Italian engineers have been arrested by the Iranian authorities. The two men, Bruno Bellamano, and Alessandro Roberti, are employed by an Italian company and were arrested at Bandar Abbas on 30 April. No charges have been brought against them because investigations are still at a preliminary stage.

The Italian consul in Tehran took immediate action and requested explanations. A number of diplomatic contacts have been made and the matter is expected to be speedily resolved.

Officials Says Torture Reports 'Baseless'

LD140715 Tehran IRNA in English 0700 GMT 14 May 87

[Text] London, May 14, Irna — The embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in London has denied charges of torture levelled against it by the London-based organization Amnesty International, describing them as "baseless allegations."

In a press release Wednesday, it said torture is forbidden in Islam and reiterated that prisoners in Iran were not subjected to it.

The embassy also said there was undeniable evidence that an Iranian being held in a British prison had been physically and psychologically tortured and reminded Amnesty International that "charity begins at home."

Two Iranian Embassy officials visited Kourosh Fouladi at Britain's Gortree Prison on 2 February and found "irrefutable evidence of mental and physical torture to which Mr Fouladi had been subjected in various U.K. prisons."

The embassy said it would release its evidence "in due course."

Responding to numerous allegations by the organization on the treatment of prisoners and punishments carried out in the Islamic Republic, the embassy said the punishment of criminals in Iran was as common as in in other countries.

"Torture, however, is forbidden in Islam and we once again declare that no torture is carried out in the prisons of the Islamic Republic of Iran."

It added: "The methods of punishment in Islamic Iran are based entirely on the Holy Koran and the precepts of Islam. The chosen path of our Muslim nation cannot be diverted by such baseless allegations."

Regarding what it called the "ballyhoo" surrounding the issue it said those with some political insight could recognise "the truth through the thick smoke screen churned out by the faithful but misguided operative of the elite groups," who have suffered as a result of the Islamic revolution in Iran.

If Amnesty International has set itself a task of defending convicted criminals, thieves and drug traffickers, assuming that it was working for human rights, it should be "quite popular with criminals in Britain," it went on.

While Amnesty International so often accuses Iran of human rights violations, "the numerous instances of inhuman treatment of prisoners in the West, notably Britain, are deliberately ignored."

Majlis Speaker Views Policies With Foreign Envoys

Meets Cuban Envoy; Hits Soviets

LD140636 Tehran IRNA in English 0625 GMT 14 May 87

[Text] Tehran, May 14, IRNA — The recent Soviet's stance on issues of the Persian Gulf is not logical and reasonable, Majlis speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani said, asking how can Moscow prefer an aggressor and dictatorial regime (Iraq) to a great anti-imperialist revolution (Islamic Revolution) as has taken place in Iran.

The speaker made the remarks in a meeting with Cuban Ambassador to Tehran, Isidoro E. Contreras Perez, here Wednesday, where he said Soviet leaders are mistaken if they think that Iraq is loyal to them.

The Iraqi regime, Hojjat ol-Eslam Rafsanjani said, on the one hand is propped up by the financial power of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, and on the other uses Jordanian and Turkish supply routes and collaborates with Egypt (all U.S. client states).

Such all-out support by U.S. client states are not in line with the Soviet interests, the speaker said.

Asked the speaker, how could such countries which are obviously dependent on Washington involve the Soviets in the region without permission from the U.S.? The Soviets involvement in the Persian Gulf at prompting of these states reveals that the "Soviets hve been hoodwinked by the U.S. on this issue", he noted.

Meanwhile, the Cuban ambassador said that his country's foreign minister Isidoro Malmierca Peoli is to visit Iran soon. He expressed hope that Tehran-Havana trade and cultural cooperation would further expand.

Meets Dane; Views Canada Ties

LD131815 Tehran IRNA in English 1810 GMT 13 May 87

[Text] Tehran, May 13, IRNA — Danish ambassador to Tehran Ib Britto Andreasen who is also in charge of the Canadian interest section here called on the Islamic Republic to re-establish relations with Canada.

In a meeting with Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani here today, the Danish ambassador also said his country is ready to expand fisheries cooperation with Iran in the Persian Gulf.

In response Hoj. Rafsanjani said Iran is also ready to expand fisheries cooperation with Denmark under the condition that Danish seamen would never repeat false reports on carrying arms to Iran.

On Tehran-Ottawa relations the speaker said the Iranian Foreign Ministry would study the proposal to resume relations with Canada.

Discusses Waite With Swede

LD131735 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 13 May 87

[Text] This morning Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani received the Swedish ambassador to the Islamic Republic of Iran. During the meeting the Swedish ambassador, presented a report about the aftermath of the death of Olof Palme in his country. He also remarked on the request by the Archbishop of Canterbury regarding Terry Waite, as well as the methodology of UN efforts to end the war.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani, referring to the character of Olof Palme, described him as a just and realistic person, and said his death was a conspiracy. Regarding the request of the Archbishop of Canterbury, he said: We are still waiting for a reply from him, although we have been active in finding clues concerning Terry Waite, and we are not very pessimistic.

Continuing his remarks, Hashemi-Rafsanjani said that the UN's role should be just and realistic. It should act as an impartial observer, conscious of the wrongs inflicted upon Iran.

Iraqi Government Battles Unrest in Kurdish Areas

Demonstration Strafed

LD131242 Tehran IRNA in English 1159 GMT 13 May 87

[Text] Bakhtaran, May 13, IRNA — Iraqi helicopter gunships attacked demonstrating Iraqi muslims in the cities of Sayyid Sadiq and Halabjah, Sulaymaniyah province, northeastern Iraq, Wednesday morning.

The demonstrations were staged after the Iraqi Ba'thist regime set a deadline for the evacuation of over 40 Kurdish populated villages near the two cities, sources of the Patriotic Union of Kurdestan (PUK) said.

The sources added that fierce clashes were still underway between the inhabitants of the two cities and agents of the Baghdad regime.

Inhabitants of the said villages have staged a sit-in protest in front of the governors' offices in Halabjah and Sayyid Sadiq, while Iraqi Kurdish combatants are fighting with Ba'thist forces outside the cities and in the nearby mountains.

Uprisings Occur in 3 Towns

LD131542 Tehran IRNA in English 1530 GMT 13 May 87

[Text] Bakhtaran, May 13, IRNA — Secretary general of Iraq's Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) Jalal Talibani called on PUK military commander today to rush with all arms and possibilities, to help the people of Iraqi towns of Halabjah, Sayyid Sadiq, and Zur who, he said, had risen up and revolted against Baghdad regime Tuesday night.

Talibani said in the telegram that the oppressed people of the three towns backed by those from 45 nearby villages which the Ba'thist regime attempted to destroy, rebelled against the Baghdad regime, and are in need of immediate help.

The telegram also called on the PUK representative in Iran to inform the Islamic Republic officials on the issue. It also called on the combatant Iranian people to help their Kurdish brothers in Iraq against the Ba'thist regime.

Meanwhile, according to informed PUK sources the people of Zur succeeded in mopping up 25 kms. between Kani-Pankeh and Sayyid Sadiq of Ba'thist troops this morning, destroying more than 30 bases and military headquarters of the Ba'thist troops.

Over Tuesday night and Wednesday morning a large group of Iraqi forces stationed in Zur, Sayyid Sadiq, and Halabjah as well as the people of Siravan district have joined the freedom-seekers from Ba'th tyranny.

The sources said units from PUK combatants have been despatched from Qara-Dagh and Garmian regions to Al-Sulaymamiyah and Zur to help the people against Iraqi troops.

Government Forces Join Revolt
LD131800 Tehran IRNA in English 1738 GMT 13 May 87

[Text] Bakhtaran, May 13, IRNA — Some 300 more Iraqi Government forces in al-Salaymaniyah region joined the insurrectionists in the Iraqi towns of Halabjah, Sayyid Sadiq and Zor, swelling the ranks of those who have joined the revolters to over 1,000 since Tuesday night.

Iraq's Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) has seized intact four personnel carriers and several vehicles from the state forces as of Wednesday afternoon. The mass uprising in the Iraqi towns of Halabjah, Sayyid Sadiq and Zor began Thursday night.

Joint Staff Communique No 2835 on Recent Fighting
LD131658 Tehran IRNA in English 1643 GMT 13 May 87

[Text] Tehran, May 13, IRNA — Muslim forces of Iran infiltrated and attacked Iraqi positions in Fakkeh operational theater early Wednesday, inflicting heavy losses in men and equipment on enemy troops and capturing many others.

Announcing the above here today, the 2835th Joint Staff Communique said an Iraqi company of Brigade 51 of the First Mechanized Division was routed and a large amount of enemy military equipment set a blaze in the penetration operations.

Three Iraqi NCO's and a few soldiers were captured and some enemy military equipment seized. The Iranian forces returned safely to bases after the operations.

Iraqi warplanes attempting to violate the airspace of some Iranian cities at 06:30 GMT Wednesday were forced to flee by tactical measures of Iranian jet fighters and anti-aircraft fire.

Parts of Iraqi defence lines and several enemy gun emplacements were set ablaze in the southern fronts yesterday when they were hit by Iranian artillery fire. Iranian forces also checked movement of Iraqi vehicle columns as well as shelled enemy positions in Sharhani, Husayniyeh and 'Eyn-Khvosh, dealing effective blows on enemy troops.

A number of Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and 15 enemy gun emplacements destroyed on border fronts of Khuzestan Tuesday when they were shelled by Iranian gendarmerie forces.

Iranian Muslim combatants also shelled an Iraqi patrol convoy in Gelaleh [name as received], northwestern fronts, yesterday, killing or wounding a number of enemy soldiers and forcing the others to flee.

Maintaining the upper hand, Iranian forces continued artillery duel with Iraqi troops elsewhere in the southern and western fronts yesterday, inflicting heavy casualties and losses on enemy troops in each front, the communique concluded.

Convoy Departs to Battlefronts
NC140653 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 14 May 87

[Text] We invite you to listen to a report on the departure of the Ramazan convoy consisting of combatants from Chahar Mahall va Bakhtiari Province to the fronts:

[Begin Central News Unit correspondent recording] Combatant forces from Chahar Mahall va Bakhtiari Province departed for the fronts to help the strugglers against the blasphemers of Islam. These forces consisted of fighters from districts and villages of Shahr-e Kord, Borujen, Farsan, and Lordegan, who had registered at the Mobilization Corps bases. The combatants departed for the fronts under the code-name "The Special Ramazan Convoy" to join the other combatants of Islam. [end recording]

SAIRI Chairman Decries 'Plots' To Protect Saddam
NC131011 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 13 May 87

[Excerpt] Hojjat ol-Eslam Hakim, chairman of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq [SAIRI], and a large number of Iraqi POWS attended grand ceremonies last night commemorating the martyrdom of 17 members of Ayatollah Hakim's family. Our correspondent reports that during the ceremonies, the SAIRI chairman spoke on the war, recent conspiracies involving world oppression, and Jerusalem Day.

Referring to the Iraqi-imposed war and World Oppression's support of Iraq, Hojjat ol-Eslam Hakim said the war is one between infidels and all of Islam's forces and added: Islam will triumph because of the faith and selflessness of the Muslims in general and the Iranian nation in particular. Alluding to world oppression's recent plots in the region, as against the Iranian nation, the SAIRI chairman said: These plots are in fact a ploy to protect Saddam and the Ba'thist government and have been designed to suppress the rightful uprising of Iraq's Muslim people. He added that God willing, these plots will be instrumental in destroying their creators and in bringing about the eventual downfall of Saddam and the Ba'thist regime.

Continuing his address, he spoke of the Baghdad regime's chemical attacks against Kurdish-inhabited areas of Iraqi Kurdistan, and opined: By strengthening the Iraqi regime, the superpowers are using it as a fulcrum against the Iraqi nation, as proved by that regime's chemical attacks against the villages and districts of northern Iraqi Kurdistan. This is an indication of the regime's disappointment with its people and its weakness and impotence. [passage omitted]